

I. AMENDMENTS

Prior to examination of the following application, entry of the following amendments is respectfully requested.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 2 through 5, 34 and 35, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 1 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) by deleting the bracketed material and inserting the underlined material as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A purified mammalian CD40 protein having the following characteristics:

[that] to specifically [binds] bind to the cytoplasmic region of the mammalian CD40 receptor;

has an apparent molecular weight of about 64 kD on SDS PAGE under reducing conditions;

and does not specifically bind to a homologous tumor necrosis factor cell-surface receptor [of the tumor necrosis receptor family].

Please add new claims 36 to 53, as follows:

36. (New) The purified protein of claim 1, wherein the protein is further characterized as having a coiled-coil segment and at least one RING finger domain.

37. (New) An immunogenic fragment of the purified protein of claim 1.

38. (New) A composition comprising the purified protein of claim 1 and an acceptable carrier.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the purified protein of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

40. (New) A composition comprising the fragment of claim 37 and an acceptable carrier.

41. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the fragment of claim 37 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

132 42. (New) A purified protein or polypeptide comprising amino acids 297 to 567 as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

43. (New) A purified protein or polypeptide of claim 42, wherein the protein or polypeptide further comprises amino acids 266 to 366 as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

44. (New) A purified protein or polypeptide of claim 42, wherein the protein or polypeptide further comprises amino acids 49 to 79 as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

3 45. (New) A purified protein of claim 42, wherein the protein consists of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ. ID NO. 2.

46. (New) An immunogenic fragment of a purified protein or polypeptide of claim 42.

47. (New) A fusion protein comprising the fragment of claim 46.